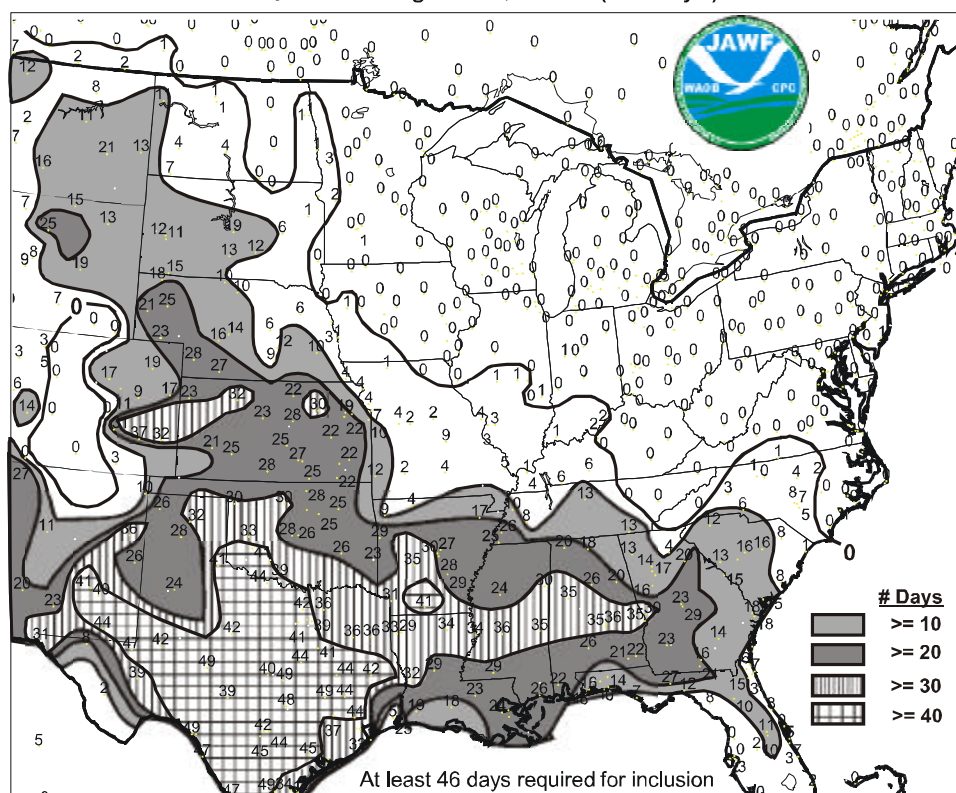


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board

Number of Days Maximum Temperature 95°F or Greater July 1 thru August 19, 2000 (50 Days)



A persistent upper-air trough over southeastern Canada and the northeastern United States since early July has brought favorable growing weather (unseasonably cool with surplus rains) from the upper Midwest southeastward to North Carolina, and northward into New England. Highs failed to reach 95°F across much of this area this summer, and even remained below 90°F (not shown) in much of the Great Lakes region, central Appalachians, and across most of New England. Temperatures since July 1 averaged between 2 and 4°F below normal from the central Corn Belt and western Great Lakes region eastward to the mid-Atlantic and New England (not shown). With nearly all corn in the dough stage and soybeans well past the flowering stage, any danger to the heat-sensitive reproductive stage of corn and soybeans has already passed in the Midwestern and mid-Atlantic crop areas. Timely rains, however, are needed as crops fill to maintain corn and soybean yield prospects.

HIGHLIGHTS

August 13 - 19, 2000

Highlights provided by USDA/WAOB

Some of the season's warmest air briefly reached the **Midwest**, pushing temperatures above 90°F for the first time this year in much of the **central Corn Belt**. After midweek, however, a cold front brought sharply cooler air and widespread showers to the **Corn Belt**, maintaining favorable conditions for filling corn and soybeans. Meanwhile, extreme heat and dryness persisted across the **Plains** (except the **Dakotas**) and the **South**, severely stressing pastures and immature summer crops. Weekly temperatures averaged 2 to 6°F above normal from the **central and southern Plains** eastward to the **lower Mississippi Valley**, and peaked above 105°F as far north as

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